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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

II. Replies received from Governments

Azerbaijan

[3 August 2005]
[Original: English]

1. The Government of Azerbaijan reported on national laws, rules and regulations that have promoted poverty reduction, investment liberalization, protection of the environment, the right to culture and the right to education. Azerbaijan noted that it has been faced with economic problems caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the activities of separatist movements.

2. Azerbaijan reported on several presidential decrees, programmes and other regulations in this regard. In relation to economic development and stability, a decree on economic development and poverty reduction has helped raise the level of investment in the country, the majority of which now comes from foreign sources. These and related reforms have led to the enhancement of living standards and an increase of 26.2 per cent in the monthly average salary in recent years. A further decree of 2004 on social and economic development has focused on the development of the provinces, with one of the main goals being support for the non-oil sector. This has the objective of establishing 600,000 new jobs. To date, 253,000 new jobs have been created, 133,000 of which are permanent. Licensing

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requirements for foreign investment have also been reduced, making investment easier for enterprises.

3. Azerbaijan also indicated that State programmes on poverty reduction reduced poverty levels from 40.6 per cent in 2002 to 40.2 per cent in 2004. The Government has also increased assistance to refugees and refugees have access to social benefits and assistance for the purchase of housing and land.

4. In relation to environmental protection, Azerbaijan has ratified 18 international environmental treaties and has taken concerted action aimed at solving the country's environmental problems. Some steps include implementing a strategic plan of activities to protect the environment of the Caspian Sea and developing national plans on the prevention of oil pollution, the increase of fish stocks, regulation of dangerous and toxic wastes and the prevention of transborder river pollution. There have also been decrees to increase forest coverage, promote the rational use of pastureland, prevent desertification and promote the use of renewable energy sources.

5. Azerbaijan has also promoted the right to culture through programmes encouraging friendly relations between ethnic groups. The Government has also promoted the right to education, guaranteed in the national Constitution, through a joint programme with the World Bank that promotes learning through the use of new technology, better-qualified and more numerous teachers and new learning techniques while respecting the traditional methods and knowledge of Azerbaijan.